



# PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

## Events

[St. Mary's County Launches First Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Program In Southern Maryland](#)

[Domestic Violence Memorial Service Held in Annapolis](#)

[Vine Protective Order \(VPO\) Trainings Available to Law Enforcement and Victim Advocates](#)

[Third Annual Governor's Conference on Combating Human Trafficking in Maryland to Be Held May 19](#)

[Commission on Inclusion Completes Listening Tour](#)

[Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design \(CPTED\) Showcased at Safe Streets Sites](#)

## Milestones

[An "Easy Button" for GOCCP Grant Technical Assistance Trainings](#)

[New Technology Shuts Down Contraband Cell Phones at BCDC](#)

## Grants Awarded

## Events

### **St. Mary's County Launches First Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Program In Southern Maryland**

On March 31, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown joined officials at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital to [announce the creation](#) of the first hospital-based domestic violence program in Southern Maryland.... [Continue Reading](#)

### **Domestic Violence Memorial Service Held in Annapolis**

The names of 50 Maryland residents who died as a result of domestic violence were read aloud during a somber memorial service held on February 10 in Annapolis.... [Continue Reading](#)

### **Vine Protective Order (VPO) Trainings Available to Law Enforcement and Victim Advocates**

In an effort to increase registration for VPO, the [Governor's Family Violence Council](#) is conducting several trainings this spring on VPO for victim advocates and law enforcement personnel.... [Continue Reading](#)

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For the third year, GOCCP is teaming up with the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF) to host the annual Governor's Conference on Combating Human Trafficking in Maryland.... [Continue Reading](#)

### **Commission on Inclusion Completes Listening Tour**

The Maryland Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities held a series of four public hearings on its Listening Tour in January and February.... [Continue Reading](#)

### **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Showcased at Safe Streets Sites**

In March, five of the Safe Streets Initiative sites that established CPTED projects in their neighborhoods were reviewed by Charles Sczuroske, a Master Trainer with the National Crime Prevention Council.... [Continue Reading](#)

## Milestones

## Grants Awarded

## An “Easy Button” for GOCCP Grant Technical Assistance Trainings

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## Grants Awarded

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## Events

## St. Mary’s County Launches First Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Program In Southern Maryland

On March 31, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown joined officials at MedStar St. Mary’s Hospital to [announce the creation](#) of the first hospital-based domestic violence program in Southern Maryland. This is the ninth hospital-based domestic violence program in the state.



“There is no family, no community immune from the threat of domestic violence,” said Lt. Governor Brown. “We’ve made great strides in our state to protect victims of domestic violence; but we’ve got a lot more work to do, and we will not rest until we’ve done all we can to eradicate domestic violence in Maryland.”

Hospital-based domestic violence programs provide training to hospital staff so they can help identify patients coming into the hospital who may be victims of domestic violence. Once these individuals are identified, they are given specialized medical services and referred to comprehensive services available in St. Mary’s County, which include counseling, legal services and temporary housing.

A grant from GOCCP provided funding to purchase forensic equipment used to document abuse, and salary support for a program coordinator. The Weinberg Foundation is also providing financial support for the coordinator, who will be available at all hours and will ensure that the patients identified as domestic violence victims are provided all of the services available to them, including a Lethality Assessment Program screening to determine whether they are at risk of being seriously injured or killed by their abuser.

“Driving down violent crimes committed against women and children is one of this administration’s top priorities,” said GOCCP Executive Director Tammy Brown. “Hospital-based domestic violence programs are helping us accomplish this goal.”

The program in St. Mary’s County is the most recent step in a program initiated by Governor O’Malley’s [2010 Executive Order](#) to expand domestic violence services at health care facilities across Maryland. Other hospital-based domestic violence programs in Maryland are at Anne Arundel Medical Center; Mercy Medical Center, Sinai Hospital, and Northwest Hospital Center in Baltimore City; Prince George’s Hospital Center; Meritus Medical Center in Washington County; and the Greater Baltimore Medical Center in Baltimore County. Howard General Hospital received funding for its hospital-based domestic violence program last fall.

[Return To Top](#)

## Domestic Violence Memorial Service Held in Annapolis

The names of 50 Maryland residents who died as a result of domestic violence were read aloud during a somber memorial service held on February 10 in Annapolis.

Sponsored by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, the 26th Annual Memorial Service remembered the women, men, a teenager who was a victim of dating violence, and a toddler who died as a result of domestic violence in Maryland between July 2012 and June 2013.

The service is held to heighten awareness of domestic violence, and to focus attention on changing laws to reduce domestic violence.



Lt. Governor Brown speaks at the annual Memorial Service for victims of domestic violence.

“Domestic violence is an issue that impacts us all: it does not discriminate based on color, creed, or religion,” said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. “It does not discriminate based on socioeconomic status or where you live in our state, and it can touch any family. We’re making progress, and we’re leading the effort this year to reduce the burden of proof, make it easier to obtain a permanent final protective order, and take a targeted approach to protecting children who witness these terrible events. But we’re never going to stop working until every Marylander is free from the fear of domestic violence.”

GOCCP has worked with its partners in law enforcement and advocates in Annapolis to secure the passage of several bills to provide assistance to survivors of domestic violence and to hold offenders accountable.

[Return To Top](#)

## Vine Protective Order (VPO) Trainings Available to Law Enforcement and Victim Advocates

The time immediately after a protective order has been served can be particularly dangerous for the petitioning victim of domestic violence. Far too often, the respondent reacts violently when served, putting the petitioner in further danger. Knowing when the order has been served allows the petitioner to seek safety or to call the police if the respondent violates the terms of the order.



Vine Protective Order (VPO) is a free automated service that notifies the petitioner, victim advocates, and law enforcement when a protective order has been served, and keeps them informed throughout the order process. Unfortunately, there is only an 8 percent registration rate for notification against all protective orders issued in Maryland.

In an effort to increase registration for VPO, the [Governor’s Family Violence Council](#) is conducting several trainings this spring on VPO for victim advocates and law enforcement personnel. Webinars are also being offered on June 5th, September 25th, and December 4th. A statewide VPO Training is being planned for a date in October at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions in Sykesville. If you are a victim advocate or a member of law enforcement and are interested in participating in a VPO training, please contact Family Violence Council Coordinator Nakita Long at [NLong@goccp.state.md.us](mailto:NLong@goccp.state.md.us).

[Return To Top](#)

## Third Annual Governor’s Conference on Combating Human Trafficking in Maryland to Be Held May 19



For the third year, GOCCP is teaming up with the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF) to host the annual Governor's Conference on Combating Human Trafficking in Maryland. The Conference will take place on Monday, May 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm. at the Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville Campus. This event will expand on the work of the previous conferences and provide attendees with progressive approaches to supporting survivors and investigating traffickers.

State and national experts will present specialized topics for law enforcement, prosecutors, government agencies, victim service providers, community advocates, and other important groups.

Some of these topics include:

- Human Trafficking / Labor Trafficking
- Case Studies / Survivor Presentations
- Working with Male and Transgender Victims
- Gang Involvement
- Maryland Vacating Law / Restitution Issues
- Survivor's Future / Next Steps
- Advanced Treatment and Services
- Law Enforcement Response

Online registration for the event will begin in mid-April. You can register by clicking on the link for the Conference on the [GOCCP home page](#).

[Resources and information from last year's conference can be viewed here.](#)

This conference is a partnership of GOCCP, MHTTF, U.S. Attorney's Office – District of Maryland, TurnAround, Inc., Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and Araminta Freedom Initiative.

[Return To Top](#)

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## Commission on Inclusion Completes Listening Tour

The Maryland Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities held a series of four public hearings on its Listening Tour in January and February. The meetings were held in Silver Spring, Catonsville, Easton, and the City of Frederick. Approximately 175 people came to the events, and over 40 people spoke to the Commission about what they believe first responders and other public sector employees need to know in their work when they are encountering individuals who may have intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Established by Governor O'Malley in September 2013, the Commission is charged with developing and recommending the types of policies, guidelines and best practices that Maryland should adopt regarding public sector employees, law enforcement officials, paramedics and other first responders responding to situations involving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Adrian Forsythe, a self-advocate, testifies before the Commission.



In March, the Commission reviewed training goals and objectives that would be incorporated into a new training curriculum for law enforcement, which would be taught by police agencies throughout Maryland.

“The listening tour provided us with a tremendous opportunity to hear from a diverse group of Marylanders, including people with intellectual disabilities, police officers and other first responders,” said Commission Chair Timothy P. Shriver. “There is clearly a deep appreciation for the services provided by law enforcement and other first responders, as well as an understanding that culture is a two-way street and that law enforcement and people with intellectual disabilities both need to have a better understanding of the challenges the other faces. We plan to address that in the training curriculum that members of the Commission have started to develop.”

The Commission began meeting in the Fall of 2013 and issued an initial report in January, 2014. You can read the report and find additional information on the Commission by [clicking here](#).

[Return To Top](#)

## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Showcased at Safe Streets Sites

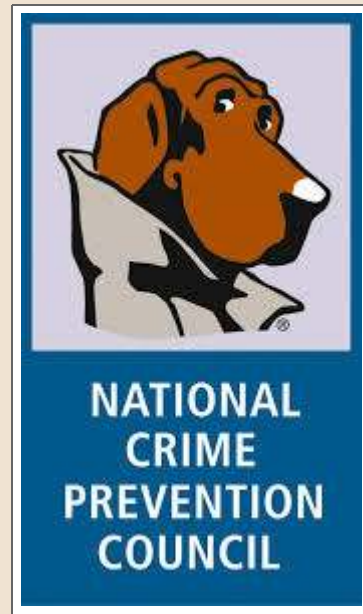
In March, five of the Safe Streets Initiative sites that established CPTED projects in their neighborhoods were reviewed by Charles Sczuroski, a Master Trainer with the National Crime Prevention Council. The Council provided information at the original training a year ago on the concept of CPTED, which is based on the idea that keeping neighborhoods clean, well-lighted and appropriately designed make them less attractive to criminal activity and help to maximize a sense of community.

Over the past year, the cities of Cumberland, Hagerstown, Frederick, and Salisbury and Harford County identified public properties that needed improvement and developed plans for each of them. These projects were reviewed in March. Their accomplishments were noted, and suggestions were made on how they could further improve the neighborhoods they had designated as CPTED projects.

“The CPTED projects have been an important element of our work in the Safe Streets Initiative sites,” said Tammy Brown, GOCCP Executive Director.

“These partnerships formed between law enforcement, local zoning departments, housing and community development and landlord associations are continuing to prevent crime and help to develop strong, resilient communities that provide safe neighborhoods for Maryland residents.”

[Return To Top](#)



## Milestones

### An “Easy Button” for GOCCP Grant Technical Assistance Trainings

Starting this year, agencies applying for specific GOCCP grant funding can attend Technical Assistance Trainings in the comfort of their offices. GOCCP is offering a pilot program of these trainings on our website.

The idea was suggested by people who attended these trainings in the past, which had always been held in a classroom or public meeting place. “Offering training videos on our website is the most convenient and efficient way to provide this information,” said Tammy Brown, GOCCP

Executive Director. A full listing of the available trainings, including Civil Rights Compliance, Fiscal Tips and Information, and technical assistance trainings for each specific grant [is available on our website](#).



Following the Spring round of NOFAs, GOCCP's Training Unit will conduct a survey to get feedback on whether agencies applying for grants felt the Technical Assistance Training videos were helpful and convenient. If the feedback is positive, GOCCP will expand the program.

[Return To Top](#)

## New Technology Shuts Down Contraband Cell Phones at BCDC

On February 7, Governor O'Malley visited the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC) [to announce](#) the successful use of Managed Access technology to block illegal phone calls from contraband cell phones within the jail. Knowing that gangs in prisons use cell phones to continue to prey on the community, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) began working with Tecore, a Maryland-based company, to find a way to differentiate calls made on an authorized cell phone from contraband cell phones. The system, Managed Access, automatically identifies and blocks calls from unauthorized cell phones. Users receive a recorded message telling them their call cannot be completed because it is coming from an unauthorized cell phone.



Governor O'Malley with DPSCS officials at the Baltimore City Detention Center.

The system is also in place at the Maryland Transition Center, which is near BCDC. Officials plan to eventually install it in other state prison facilities. According to the Governor, this would be a big step towards improving public safety not only in prisons, but in neighborhoods across Maryland.

"Protecting the safety and security of our citizens is one of our top priorities as a State," said Governor O'Malley. "This technology builds on our expansive efforts to combat corruption and interdiction while also ensuring that our correctional facilities are safe and secure."

The Managed Access system is the end product of years of work by Maryland officials to find a way to stop the use of contraband cell phones within prisons, while complying with federal law that does not allow states to jam cell phone reception in the jail.

[Return To Top](#)

## Grants Awarded

GOCCP has awarded over \$287,000 in funds from the federal [Sexual Assault Services Program \(SASP\)](#). These grants fund programs for 14 agencies across Maryland that provide intervention and support services for victims of sexual assault, their family members and others collaterally affected by the sexual assault. SASP was created by the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, and is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault.

For up-to-date announcements on grant awards, please check our [Press Release webpage](#). To find Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) that are currently available, please look at the bottom of our [website homepage](#).

A complete listing of a wide variety of federal and state funds that make resources available for public safety projects across Maryland [can be found here](#).

[Return To Top](#)

